

# San Diego DX Club Bulletin

November 2018



## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

TO BE ANNOUNCED

## MEETING NOTICE:

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2018

JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER, 3755 Murphy Canyon Road,  
San Diego, CA 92123 (858) 278-6988  
SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.  
MEETING, 6:30 P.M.

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**From the Prez . . .****Ron, WB1EAZ**

Living at upwards of 4000 feet in the back country has significant ham radio advantages. However, earlier this month we had to contend with weather issues, namely Santa Ana winds that resulted in the power being shut off for 3 days. We survived quite well, but keeping everything going kept me away from the radio and missing some DX.

Speaking of DX, there is some discussion on the internet about making digital modes as a separate category (FT8 and such are now considered, along with RTTY, as one mode.) Any thoughts?

Speaking of FT8, for those of you who are using it, a new release is being developed that is not backwardly compatible. The new release will have a few more bits in its package. So keep your eyes open and be aware of the changes in the FT8 protocol that likely will come some time in December.

Now that all the participants are back from DUCIE, I am looking forward to hearing the story at one of our meetings in the near future. Many have heard that there was a problem with N1MM talking to WSJT that resulted in some FT8 contacts not showing up in the log while the operation was ongoing. I had a 30M FT8 contact that did not show up but, knew that I had a good contact from the computer messages. Sure enough, when the logs were posted after the team review, there was my contact. All as part of digital communication and pushing the boundaries. As far as I am concerned, this was the DXpedition of the year.

A quick reminder that our November meeting will occur the week after Thanksgiving and not the day before, as it has been the past few years. Wishing you a great Thanksgiving – take a break and work some DX, and I'll look forward to seeing you at the December Holiday Party.

Have fun and enjoy!

**Ron, WB1EAZ**

## Secretary/Treasurer Reports

Randy, KQ6RS

### Meeting Minutes, SDDXC Club, October 24, 2018

At 6:30 pm Ron Richards, WB1EAZ, called the meeting to order. 31 members and one guest were in attendance. Our guest was Cliff Steagall, N5BXE.

**Old business** – The September minutes and Treasurer Report were approved.



**Note – SDDXC does not hold a monthly meeting in December. We will have our annual holiday party at Fiddlers Green on December 16<sup>th</sup> from noon to 4:30pm.**

**New business** – SANDARC (San Diego County Amateur Radio Council) has been reorganized. Over the last few years, our club has shown little interest in being involved with this group.

Bud Hennessy, AE6BH, gave a report on the club shirt effort. Ron Rosson, N6XT, will email the club to ask members to indicate if they want to order a shirt. If less than 20 people want shirts, we will order extra shirts to get the total to 20. This reduces the per shirt price and will provide some extra shirts for those who may want one later. All colors will be available for the initial order, and the extra shirts will be royal blue, since that is a popular color. The back artwork will be silkscreened on. In appreciation for the time that Bud and his wife have put into the club shirt effort, the membership voted to pay for Bud to take his wife out to dinner.

At 6:35 pm We started the round table discussion.

At 7:27 pm we played a video documentary on the Scarborough Reef DXpedition.

At 9:27 pm the meeting was adjourned.

### Treasurer's Report

Income for October: None.

Expenses for October: 45.00 to STC Network Systems for web site hosting for

Statement Balance on 11/1/2018 \$7,487.00

Randy, KQ6RS

# SDDXC TOP 10

*John, K6AM*

## CURRENT COUNTRIES CONFIRMED ON CW



11/18	11/17	CALL	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	3.	K9RHY	339	351	351	+1
2.	2.	N6CW	338	366	366	-
3.	4.	K6AM	338	348	349	-
4.	5.	N0RR	337	352	352	+1
5.	8.	K6XT	337	350	352	+3
6.	6.	K6ZH	335	342	342	-
7.	7.	N7CW	335	336	336	-
8.	9.	W6YOO	333	340	340	-
9.	10.	W6YI	332	340	343	+2
10.	12.	K0XB	330	339	340	+3

11/18	11/17	CALL	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
11.	11.	NN6K	330	334	334	-
12.	13.	WN6K	323	334	341	+4
13.	16.	K5OA	321	327	327	+22
14.	14.	NA6L	307	307	310	+3
15.	15.	N6VS	300	304	310	-
16.	18.	WB6BFG	297	300	305	-
17.	19.	W5BN	295	295	316	+10
18.	-.	N6XT	287	289	289	NEW
19.	20.	N6MUF	257	263	268	-
20.	-.	W6HDG	247	247	272	NEW

We've expanded the CW Top 10 to include the top 20 players. Since no one in the Club ever worked P5 on CW, the number to hit on CW now stands at 339. Quite a few reports this year resulting in a few shakeups in the standings. We welcome N6XT and W6HDG to the leader board.

Each month, we will publish a top ten list for one of the lesser-recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, 10/40M and 80/20M. Please send me your totals for each band and mode throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

### CHECK YOUR LOGS

It's time once again to recognize those of you who have made outstanding DX achievements during the year. Please check your logs and let me know if you worked your 331st current country or more than 20 all time new countries during 2018. Send your totals to k6am at arrl dot net.

*John, K6AM*



The 2018 SDDXC Holiday Party will be held on December 16, 2018 from 12pm to 4:30pm at Fiddlers Green Restaurant - Up Stairs - 2760 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92106  
Cost, details and RSVP at:

<https://SDDXC.rsvpify.com>

# SDDXC CONTEST RESULTS

John K6AM

## 2018 ARRL DX SSB CONTEST



CLASS	CALL	SCORE	QSO'S	MLTS	FINISH
M2	NX6T (N6KI WQ6X N6CY NN6X AF6AV W6ZAR KK6NON ops)	711,504	989	244	#1 SW Div, #10 US/VE
SOA HP	W6YI	505,680	710	245	#1 SW Div
SO HP	K6NA	68,364	211	108	
SO HP	W6JBR	19,116	110	59	
SO LP	WN6K	14,616	87	56	
SO LP	W6ZAR	8,319	63	47	

And one more from last month in the ARRL DX CW contest

SO 40	W7XI (N6CW, op)	228,570	814	95	#1 SW div, #3 US/VE
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This just in. **K6AM's multi op team wins top spot in 2018 SS phone.** The K6AM call has not been heard in SS Phone for many years. We have been operating from W6YI for a while. But after winning most years, that station was not available this time. So we brought core operators, N6MJ, N6WIN, N6KI and myself over to the NX6T contest station a few hilltops to the west. We were joined by our two young champions-in-training, Axel, KI6RRN, and Levi, KK6NON. Both of these guys have respectable records already. Sitting in the chair right next to WRTC champ, N6MJ while he listens in goes a long way toward getting them up to top speed quickly.

John, K6AM

**As is customary, there will be no SDDXC Bulletin published in December. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays to all!**

## From the Editor

Bob, K9RHY



### How Climate Change Can Affect DXCC

It doesn't matter whether you believe that climate is changing or not changing. If the earth's climate is changing, it doesn't matter whether this climate change is caused by humans or by Mother Earth. "No politics" zone ahead.

Last month, I wrote about my (least) favorite DXCC entity, Scarborough Reef, BS7. Let's head back to the South China Sea for a further bite of the apple.

Japan, like China, also has a lot of uninhabited islands. The Japanese government surveyed and named 158 of these islands in 2014 to ensure that the water around them continues to belong to Japan. But now, one of those islets has disappeared. Unfortunately, no one seemed to have noticed - until now.

The Japanese Coast Guard is apparently planning to search for the mini-island, called Eisanbehanakitakojima (try to say that after consuming a few Sapporos), about one-third of a mile away from Sarufutsu, a village on Hokkaido island. An author who previously published a picture book about Japanese islands, was the one who reported that the island wasn't where it was supposed to be. He wanted to visit Eisanbehanikitakojima as part of a follow-up book project — but he couldn't find it.

Failing with Google Earth and available nautical maps, he reached out to Sarufutsu's village fishery to ask where the island might be.

It turns out the Japanese Coast Guard had last surveyed the island in 1987, and it was known to be around 4½ feet above sea level. In contrast, Scarborough Reef's highest point, *South Rock*, is 5 ft 11 in above sea-level at high tide. Another Japanese Island, this one a DXCC counter in its own right, Marcus Island (Minamitorishima) towers as much as 30 feet above sea level.

Speaking about Eisanbehanakitakojima, "There is a possibility that the islet has been eroded by wind and snow and, as a result, disappeared," says senior coast guard official Tomoo Fujii.

Land disappearances are not unheard of. A study published in 2016 found that five reef islands in the Pacific Ocean's Solomon Islands had disappeared between 1947 and 2014. That study determined that although sea-level rise has caused erosion in the central Pacific, research in the western Pacific found that "extreme events, sea walls and inappropriate development" were likely responsible for the majority of shoreline changes in that region.

For its part, Japan has taken measures to ensure it lays claim to certain islands to avoid further territorial disputes with its neighbors.

In 2016, Japan announced it would spend \$107 million to rebuild the observatory tower on Okinotorishima, another low-lying island, an island that rises only 3½ feet above sea level.

Of course there is always contention in matters of geopolitical import. Beijing claimed that Okinotorishima was only made of rocks and thus disqualified Japan from including it in its exclusive economic zone. A United Nations convention claimed that “rocks which cannot sustain human habitation or economic life of their own” don’t qualify as “islands” used to define an exclusive economic zone.

Japan currently has two islands that count as separate DXCC entities: Minamitorishima, also called Marcus Island, OC-073, (JD1) and Ogasawara Island (JD1) AS-031 also called Bonin Islands..

These specks of land in the limitless ocean are important because China’s artificial islands are fueling a new struggle for control of Asia’s oceans. But while China dredges military bases out of the ocean, Japan is growing an island in a bathtub.

So now to the “bone of contention”. Returning to the island made of rocks, Okinotorishima, or “distant bird island” is a remote, storm-wracked coral atoll in the Philippine Sea, where two small outcrops protrude at high tide. Japan regards the atoll as its southernmost point; China says it is not an island, but merely a rock.

For millennia, as the land beneath it sank, layers of coral grew on top and kept the atoll’s highest point above water. But now Okinotorishima is dying. The sea level is rising (I’m not saying why this is happening, but it appears to be a reality) and killing the coral. Typhoons bite at what remains. Japan is therefore on a quest to regrow the reef. The results will decide the fate of a strategic redoubt, with legal repercussions in the South China Sea, and could offer hope to other threatened atolls.

The bathtub, full of baby coral growing on iron plates, sits in a greenhouse at the Deep Seawater Research Institute on the island of Kumejima. Workers explain how they brought coral from Okinotorishima and harvested eggs. They will grow the baby coral eggs into actual coral in this laboratory for a year then transplant them back to the atoll.

“Our experiments with planting coral on Okinotorishima are ongoing,” says Mr Makoto Omori, emeritus professor at the Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology. “We’ve made progress in expanding the area of coral planted, but the death rate of the transplanted coral is high, so we can’t yet say the amount of coral on the island is increasing.”

No amount of transplantation can revive a reef by itself, says Mr Omori. Rather, the goal is for the transplants to spread across the atoll. Working in such a remote place is challenging because it is hard to monitor the coral.

In the past four decades, 40 per cent of the world's reefs have died. There are almost 500 atolls in the world, and some island countries such as the Marshalls, Tuvalu, Kiribati and the Maldives are completely formed of atolls.

Remember that only an island can generate an exclusive economic zone. A rock cannot, which is the other reason why Japan is trying to regrow the coral, rather than mirroring China by laying down a few thousand tons of sand and concrete.

To my way of thinking, this controversy is at the intersection of national sovereignty and the ARRL's DXCC list. China's new islands in the South China Sea are artificial. If Japan revives the coral on Okinotorishima, however, it can argue the island is "naturally formed". Japan can further claim that the very activity of farming coral is part of Japan's effort to show the atoll has an economic life, and support its contention that Okinotorishima is not a "rock".

By taking this position, Japan hopes to claim Okinotorishima as an island with its own EEZ, while still opposing China's reclamations in the South China Sea.

The question for interested DXers is whether the China's dumping rocks on the Spratleys or Japan's growing coral to increase the size of an island will mature into a new DXCC counter.

See how important climate change can be?

Bob, K9RHY

**Can you identify these historical bits  
from the "olden days" of ham radio??**

